

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are currently pending. No amendments have been made. A listing of the claims as currently pending has been provided, as requested by Examiner Hand.

Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The telephone interview courteously granted by Examiner Hand on May 10, 2006 is respectfully acknowledged. During the interview, applicants' representatives and Examiner Hand discussed the finality of the Office action dated March 9, 2006, the rejection of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Howard, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,552,171), and the patentability of claim 6 over Howard, et al. Examiner Hand agreed that the finality of the Office action was improper and that Howard, et al. did not anticipate claims 1-30. Examiner Hand further agreed to withdraw the finality of the March 9, 2006 Office action and the rejection of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Howard, et al., and indicated that she would instead be issuing a new Office action. In anticipation of a new Office action being issued, Examiner Hand instructed applicants' representatives not to file a response to the March 9, 2006 Office action.

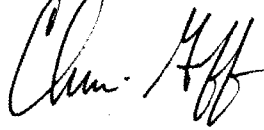
In a follow up telephone interview on June 20, 2006 between applicants' representative and Examiner Hand, Examiner Hand requested that applicants submit a response to the final Office action of March 9, 2006 that included a current listing of the claims and a summary of the May 10, 2006 telephone interview.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, applicants request the rejection of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and the rejection of claims 2, 11, 20, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn. Applicants furthermore request the finality of the March 9, 2006 Office action be withdrawn. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any government fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris. Goff", is written over the typed name.

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By EFS